

REMARKS

Claim 22 to 26 has been cancelled and new claims 27 to 32 have been added. Accordingly, claims 27-32 are currently pending.

CLAIM REJECTIONS 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 22-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth on pages 3 to 7 of the Office Action. The Examiner noted, however, that these claims would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the § 112 rejections in a form to include the interpretation of the Examiner or similar variations thereof. These claims all have now been cancelled and replaced by new claims 27-32.

For the reasons set forth hereafter, it is submitted that new claims 27-32 are patentable.

Patentability of the Claims

Claims 22-26 have been deleted and new claims 27-32 have been added to more clearly define Applicants' invention in accordance with the suggestions of the Examiner in the Office Action. No new matter has been added.

Claim 27 is the broadest of the new claims defining Applicants' invention. Thus, claim 27 defines a method of analyzing body fluid samples, in which plural bottles respectively storing the body fluid samples are transferred to a line so as to be pipetted at different positions of the line respectively using first and second pipettes.

In the method, the characteristic feature defined in claim 27 is that after a body fluid sample stored in a bottle is pipetted by first using the first pipette, the body fluid sample in the bottle is then pipetted by using the second pipette. The body fluid samples pipetted by the first and second pipettes are then analyzed by employing a plurality of analysis devices, wherein an avoiding level of carry-over of the analysis devices of the body fluid samples pipetted by using the first pipette is equal to or higher than an avoiding level of carry-over of the analysis devices of the body fluid samples pipetted by using said second pipette.

The present invention as defined in claim 28 is similar to that defined in claim 27. However, claim 28 is different from claim 27 by defining only a case that after the body fluid sample stored in one bottle is pipetted by using the

first pipette, the body fluid sample in another bottle is then pipetted by using the second pipette.

In the same way, claim 29 is different from claim 27 by defining a case that after the body fluid sample stored in the same one of the bottles is pipetted by using the first pipette, the body fluid sample in the same one of the bottles is pipetted by using the second pipette.

Claims 30 to 32 are dependent on claim 26 and are based on prior claims 24-26 defining further aspects of the present invention.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees
that may be due in connection with this response to Deposit
Account No. 50-1417.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene W. Stockman".

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